

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION      CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER**

**April 18, 1997**

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

This is the fourth edition of the newsletter established in the fall of 1995, which is meant to serve as a way of spreading information and encouraging interaction among graduate students, in all three of our programs (M.A. History and Philosophy of Religion, M.A. Judaic Studies, and Ph.D. Religion), and between graduate students and faculty members in the Department of Religion. Contributors to and editors of this issue of the newsletter are Marlene Bonneau, James Jervis, Leslie Orr, Johanne Rabbat, and Chandra Rice. If you would like to be involved in the production of this newsletter, or if you can provide any interesting information for the next edition of this newsletter (fall 1997)--upcoming events, opportunities, or the whereabouts and activities of yourself or other grad students, former or current--just drop a note addressed to Rosemary Hale, who will coordinate the production of the newsletter during Leslie Orr's sabbatical leave in 1997-98. Much of the information in this newsletter was gathered through student-to-student phone calls and conversations. Information about student and faculty activities that was published in earlier issues of the newsletter is not repeated here. (You can ask Diane Boulé for back issues, if you're interested.) If there isn't very much about you and your activities here, tell us what you're doing, so we can include it in the next issue--or if you'd like to see other kinds of information and material in this newsletter, let us know.

**RESOURCES**

**JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

• The graduate student notice board--in the long hallway in Annex R (2050 Mackay), next to the seminar room--has many notices of interest, including advertisements of job openings, calls for papers, and announcements of fellowships. New notices are being posted all the time, so you should make a point of regularly checking this notice board. Look also in the seminar room for fellowship announcements, printed on bright yellow paper.

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute provides support and programs for study about and in India. For more information, see the posters on the bulletin board in Annex R, or write to Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, 1402 Education Tower, 2500 University Drive N.W. Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4. Graduate students interested in study in India in 1998-99--doing post-doctoral research, graduate student research, language training, or performing arts--should submit an application before June 30.

**E-MAIL AND THE INTERNET.** Every graduate student is eligible for a computer account at the university. If you have a computer with a modem, you can have access to e-mail and the internet from home. Otherwise, you can avail yourself of the computers in the Hall building or in the Library's Media Centre. E-mail is a very useful tool--for corresponding with people near and far, getting information, participating in discussion groups on specific topics, etc. You can also get into the internet, through your vax2 or alcor account (via lynx), although you may not see any of the graphics, just the words. Although at present the university offers us rather limited computer resources, the Department hopes to be able to make these more available to graduate students next year--to provide support for students without computers and to explore ways in which electronic resources can be used. Meanwhile, the library provides access to computers, and regularly offers workshops which can provide you with information about how to use the internet--and Ann Golubowski, the Religion area librarian at the Webster library, is very knowledgeable and may be able to help you with specific questions and problems you have.

On both vax2 and alcor, you get into the internet through "lynx" (it's on the alcor menu, and on vax2, you just type the word lynx at the \$ prompt). Then you type g (for "go") followed by a space and the URL (internet address). For example, the URL of the Concordia library is:

<http://juno.concordia.ca>

and when you arrive there, you can do everything you can do at a terminal in the Webster library, and more (go to any library in Montreal, and to libraries worldwide). There is a new feature on the Concordia library webpage, under "Collections," where you can see what new books have recently been catalogued and are available on the library shelves.

Our own Department of Religion now has a webpage, which you should check out:

<http://artsci-cwin.concordia.ca/religion/reli.html>

If you have any suggestions for additions, or want to help work on this page, contact Ira Robinson.

The "History-Net" has several useful sites. One is the H-Grad website, for graduate students, with information on getting into graduate schools, being a successful grad student, employment guides, and many other useful links: <http://h-net.msu.edu/~grad>. Another is a weekly listing of academic positions and fellowships in history and allied areas--including religion, Judaic Studies, and women's studies--<http://h-net2.msu.edu/jobs/>

For specific fields of study, there are many resources on the internet--bibliographies, texts, directories, and all kinds of other information. In the last newsletter, some websites on Buddhism were mentioned. Here are a couple on Islam:

<http://www.ummah.org.uk> and <http://www.cybermuslim.org>.

If you are interested in learning more about the internet in general--how to evaluate the information available on the net, and issues concerning the economics and demography of the internet, the following sites may be useful to you:

<http://www.science.widener.edu/~withers/webeval.htm>

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.html>

<http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/resources/infoecon/Background.html>

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/QLTY/NetStudies.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Annual Inter-University Graduate Conference, hosted by Concordia's Department of Religion, has as its theme this year "Paradigms and Praxis: Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion and Culture." It will be held on May 5, in the Concordia Faculty Club (7th floor of the Hall building). A tentative program is included in this mailing. The program starts at 10:30 am, and will be followed by a reception, at 6:00 pm, which will take place in the Department of Religion. All interested persons, and especially graduate students, are warmly invited to attend. Last year's graduate student conference was a huge success, involving brilliant presentations, fabulous T-shirts, and excellent refreshments. We look forward to a similar or even greater success this year. The organizing committee for this year's conference includes Marlene Bonneau, Deidre Butler, Rose Ftaya, James Jervis, and Johanne Rabbat.

The Journal of Religion and Culture seeks papers for publication. This is a graduate student run journal, appearing bi-annually, which publishes articles and book reviews written by Canadian graduate students and faculty. If you have a paper to submit, would like to subscribe to or participate in producing the journal, or would like to have more information, leave a note in the JRC/ Grad Student Association mailbox (to the left of the faculty mailboxes). The latest edition of the JRC has just appeared. It will be available for purchase at the conference on May 5.

A four-day international conference, "Postcolonial Translations: Changing the Terms of Cultural Transmission," is being held May 22-25 at Université de Montréal and Concordia University. Among the themes of the papers to be presented are: translation and the postcolonial paradigm, Indian regional literatures in translation, postcolonial contexts: Philippines, Hong Kong, Canada, Brazil, Ireland, and evaluating the political and cultural impact of translations. There is a special registration fee for graduate students of \$25. For information about registration and other details of the program, see the poster inside the front door of Annexe R, or visit the website at: <http://tornado.ere.umontreal.ca/~saintpip/colloque.html>

EPOCHE, the University of California's Graduate Student Journal for the Study of Religion, invites submissions by graduate students for a special Spring 1998 issue on Women and Religion. Submit two copies of your manuscript (20-25 pages, including endnotes), by September 1, 1997 to Anna Bigelow, Dept of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3130. For inquiries, contact Martha L. Finch at [6500finc@ucsbuxa.ucsb.edu](mailto:6500finc@ucsbuxa.ucsb.edu)

The Chair of Hindu Studies, T.S. Rukmani, and other members of the Department, have organized an "International Conference on the Hindu Diaspora," to be held at Concordia University August 22-23, 1997. There is an excellent program of presentations on a variety of topics relating to religious, sociological, cultural, historical, and other aspects related to the world-wide dispersion of Hindus. The organizers look forward to the participation in this conference not only of scholars from all over the world, but of members of Montreal's Hindu community and Concordia's graduate students. For more information contact Professor Rukmani or Johanne Rabbat.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Religion Graduate Student Association is now officially established!! You are encouraged to become involved in this organization. It is a co-sponsor of the graduate student conference, "Paradigms and Praxis," being held on May 5, and it is engaged in promoting other initiatives of importance to graduate students. Your ideas and energy are invited. The executive committee consists of: Johanne Rabbat and James Jervis as co-presidents, Deidre Butler as vice-president, and Grant Martin as treasurer. The new Graduate Student Association mailbox, which the Association shares with the Journal of Religion and Culture, is located to the left of the faculty mailboxes in Annex FA. Leave a message!

## GRADUATIONS AND GRADUATES

Three students will be receiving their M.A. degrees this spring: Srdjan Gligoric (H&P), Daniel Stambler (H&P), and Sonia Zylberberg (Jd.St.). Srdjan's thesis is entitled "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Modern Public Education: An Analysis of Calvin and Ignatius in the Sixteenth Century." Daniel's thesis focuses on "Spiritual Journeys to and from Buddhist Retreat Centres in Asia." Sonia's thesis is: "Woman to Woman: Relationships in the Hebrew Bible."

Roberta Cameron will be awarded her Ph.D. this spring. Her thesis is on "The Making of Wilfred Cantwell Smith's 'World Theology'."

Bassem Khalifah, who received his Ph.D. last spring, has had his doctoral thesis--on "The Rise and Fall of Christian Lebanon"--published by York Press. He is the proprietor of the Canadian Institute of Technology, a computer business in downtown Montreal.

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Congratulations to those who were successful in winning fellowships!

THREE of the Department's students were awarded FCAR fellowships for doctoral studies: Marlene Bonneau (currently in our Ph.D. program), Sharon Gubbay (M.A. Jd.St.), and Khaleel Mohammed (M.A. H&P). Shauna Beharry, who will be entering our M.A. program in the fall, received a Concordia University fellowship. Chris Austin won a fellowship from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to study Sanskrit at the University of British Columbia this summer.

## NEW STUDENTS

Kelly Menshick, who received an M.A. in Judaic Studies from Concordia in the fall of 1996, entered our Ph.D. program in January, 1997.

A full list of all students in the M.A. and Ph.D. programs, including those newly entering in the fall of 1997, will be mailed with the fall newsletter. Meanwhile, among the graduate students who have been admitted, three have indicated that they will be joining our programs in the fall. These are Soumela Amanatides, Shauna Beharry, and Chris Helland, all of whom will be enrolling in the M.A. H&P program.

## PH.D. STUDENTS

Abdelrahman Ahmed has just returned from two months in Sudan, where he will return to teach Philosophy at the University of Khartoum after he completes his doctorate in December 1997. His thesis, "Ibn Khaldun on Religion," and his six children are the main focus in his life at the present.

Although he is looking forward to his teaching job in Sudan--and is thinking about the possibility of finding other teaching positions in Saudia Arabia or Malaysia--he will miss Montreal, after fourteen years of living here.

John Arsenault has completed his course work this spring, and his first comprehensive exam, on "Jewish Mysticism and Ethics." He plans to spend most of the summer preparing for his other two exams: "Christian Mysticism and Ethics" and "Philosophy of Religion." John, in his leisure time, writes poetry. He is looking forward to attending a conference of the International Institute for Integral Human Sciences in the near future, and has been invited to attend the James D. Raymond Institute on Judaism program at the Temple Emmanu-el-Beth Sholom in May.

Abi Bahar is poud to announce his new position as Senior Executive Vice-President of Southasia Watch, an organization which focuses on the defence of human rights in South Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Burma. The organization is involved with such issues as women's rights and child labour. It publishes a yearly report and sends representatives to South Asia to investigate human rights violations. Abi continues to teach at Dawson College in the Humanities program for five years.

Marlene Bonneau presented a paper earlier this month at the Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (EIR/AAR), in Buffalo, NY. Her paper was entitled "...A man takes a wife..." (Deut. 22:13)/ Can a woman take a husband in Jewish law?" In addition to her course work, and assisting Prof. David Miller in undergraduate advising, Marlene has been active in organizing the graduate student conference to be held May 5. The FCAR fellowship she has just been awarded will allow her to spend more time on her thesis research.

Deidre Butler also presented a paper at the EIR/AAR conference in Buffalo, entitled "In Her Own Voice: The Problem of Gender in the Study of Religious Texts Written by Women." She has contributed an entry on "Holocaust Studies" to Jewish American Women: An Historic Encyclopedia, ed. D. Dash-Moor and Paula Hyman, and is working on a book project with Prof. Norma Joseph on Canadian scholarship on women and Jewish studies. Deidre is the main organizer of the upcoming graduate student conference, is vice-president of the newly organized Religion Graduate Student Association, and is editor of the Journal of Religion and Culture. She is planning a web page for the Journal.

Roberta Cameron successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis earlier this month, and finds it hard to believe that she will no longer be studying religion. She looks forward to travelling this summer in Turkey.

Carlton Harvey will be publishing a series of sermons which will appear in "Preachers Magazine" in June. Also in June, he will be delegate to the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene, which will take place in Texas.

Maxine Jacobson hopes to complete her thesis, "Major Trends in Modern Orthodoxy as Reflected in the Career of Dr. Rabbi Leo Jung," within two years. Because her thesis focuses on the years 1920-1980 in the United States, Maxine's research takes her to the Archives of Yeshiva University and to the archives of various other Jewish organizations in the States. In between her family responsibilities, and going back and forth between Montreal and New Yor, for her research, Maxine gives occasional lectures on comparative religion at Queen of Angels High School.

James Jervis is preparing for the last of his comprehensive exams, before plunging into his thesis work on the Enneagram--a system of personality classification and transformation, which is supposed to have developed within Sufism and which has been utilized by many esoteric, religious,



therapeutic, and self-help groups in the West. James has been busy this year in helping to set up the Religion Graduate Student Association, of which he is co-president, and in working on the upcoming graduate student conference. James looks forward to spending the summer in Colombia.

Jutta Lehmann has recently returned from a one-month research trip to California. She has also had an article on astrology published in the journal The Theosophist.

Nusia Matura is occupied with her thesis, the subject of which is women in the Catholic Church. She teaches at the Thomas More Institute.

Kelly Menshick's work on her thesis topic ("The Dead Sea Scrolls") occupies her time when she is not busy caring for a one and a half year old toddler, working almost full-time, acting as a T.A. for Sandra Walker-Ramisch, or helping with the production of the Journal of Religion and Culture. Kelly hopes to finish two reading courses over the summer, but first--is going to spend the Passover holiday in Israel.

Margaret Million is finishing her dissertation, which is on renewal movements in the Catholic Church. She is occupied full-time in providing pastoral services at Vanier College.

David Oliver, who is rector of St. Thomas Anglican Church in NDG, has been working on his thesis, "Patterns of Enculturation in the Worldwide Anglican Communion." He will be presenting a paper on "Enculturation in the Contemporary Canadian Church." David has been active in Jewish-Christian and Muslim-Christian dialogue.

Patricia O'Rourke is working on her last comprehensive exam and on her thesis, which is on health care. She serves on the editorial board of The Rambler, an academic Catholic journal, and is a lecturer at McGill, for an undergraduate course on "Frontiers of Faith."

Patricia Peacock continues her doctoral studies while working as a rural dean, a post to which she was elected last May.

Myer Schecter is a full-time rabbi in residence at the Jewish General Hospital. He will participate in a seminar in May, in New York City, on rabbinical chaplaincy for dying patients, a subject closely related to his thesis topic. He has recently been published in the Journal of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Faye Wakeling has almost finished her thesis, on feminist liberalist ethical methodology. She is a co-author of Hope is the Struggle--A Community in Action, by Melissa Chamberlain, Elizabeth Garbish, Donna Leduc, Myrna Rose, and Faye Wakeling (United Church Publishers, 1996), in which feminist theological ethics is given a non-academic and community-based voice.

## M.A. STUDENTS

Chris Austin (H&P) was awarded a fellowship for summer language study by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. He will be taking an intensive course in Sanskrit at UBC.

Michelle Folk (H&P) has completed her course work, and has returned to her home in Regina, where she will be working on her comps and thesis. This year she acted as Leslie Orr's research assistant. Her thesis research focuses on the study of the lives and works of female saints in devotional Hinduism.

Rose Ftaya (Judaic Studies) has worked this year as a research assistant for Rosemary Hale and Norma Joseph. With Professor Joseph, she has researched "Iraqi Jewish Women in Transition from Baghdad to Montreal," while reflecting on some of her own research areas, which touch on the issues of mysticism, memory and contingency. As a cabinet-maker by profession, her work is primarily in the "making." Rose has recently been very active in preparations for the May 5th

graduate student conference.

Howard Gontovnick (H&P) publishes a newsletter called "Experiential Psychotherapy." Pipip Hasan (H&P) took part in February in a seminar at McGill on problems of methodology in religious studies. He hopes to complete his M.A. soon, and will continue at Concordia in the Ph.D. program. Sharon Gubbay (Jd.St.) also hopes to begin work on her Ph.D. in the Department soon, and has just been awarded an FCAR fellowship to support her doctoral studies.

Dany Julien (H&P) has been busy this year as Vice-President Finance for Concordia's Graduate Students Association, and as student representative for SCAPP (the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities), the Health and Safety Committee, and the Search Committee for the Vice-Rector Services. He has been, since November, the new "commissaire francophone" for the Canadian Federation of Students. He is also working on his thesis, which discusses the problem of "The Amazons within the Primitive Church."

Marjorie Lee (H&P) has been taking part in monthly Christian-Muslim dialogues, which especially focus on the question of education for young people within each of these two religions.

Grant Martin (H&P) looks forward to completing his M.A. in the near future, and starting his doctoral studies in the fall. He has also recently started working as Leslie Orr's research assistant.

Khaleel Mohammed (H&P) has as his area of research "The Social Setting to which the Verses of Legislation in the Qur'an are addressed." After completing his M.A. at Concordia, he will be pursuing doctoral studies (for which he has recently been awarded an FCAR fellowship) at the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill. In January, Khaleel took part in a Peace Panel Discussion, as part of Concordia Campus Ministry's Interfaith Celebration, "The Spirit has Many Voices."

Johanne Rabbat (H&P) also took part in this panel, in which each participant made a presentation on the contribution to world peace of one of the world religions. Johanne has also been very active in bringing into being the new Religion Graduate Student Association, of which she is co-president, and in preparations for the upcoming graduate students conference, in addition to acting as Professor Rukmani's assistant in organizing the International Conference on the Hindu Diaspora, which will be taking place at Concordia in August.

Chandra Rice (H&P) has returned from her adventures in Europe, and is attempting to make as much progress as possible in writing her thesis--on the topic of East Asian Buddhist story literature--before the birth of her second child, who is expected in May.

Mark Smith (H&P) is not seen around the Department very much, but continues his studies while teaching on a Cree reserve. Bill Thomas (H&P) is also completing his M.A. studies from afar, as he continues his work as Coordinator of Ministry for the United Church Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge, in the Eastern Townships. Janet Tisdale (H&P) is seen around the Department, but won't be for much longer, as she will be transferring to the University of Ottawa, where she will continue her studies in the area of corporate ethics.

Daniel Stambler (H&P) spent a great deal of time last year travelling in India and Thailand, where he collected material for his thesis, "Spiritual Journeys to and from Buddhist Retreat Centres in Asia." After writing his thesis, and defending it in December, he is on the road again--this time in Israel.

Sonia Zylberberg (Jd.St.) has also recently defended her thesis, "Woman to Woman: Relationships in the Hebrew Bible." Starting in May, Sonia will be teaching a summer course for the Department, Introduction to Women and Religion.

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Fred Bird has been charged with formulating "Ethical Guidelines for Concordia University," a long-term project which has recently been completed. Meanwhile, his recent and forthcoming publications include "Empowerment and Justice" (in Ethics of Empowerment, ed. B. Quinn, Macmillan Publishers, forthcoming) and "Moral Universals as Cultural Realities" (in Ethical Universals in International Business, ed. N. Brady and P. Koslowski, Berlin: Verlag, 1996). He will be presenting a paper to the CSSR, in June, on "A Defense of Objectivity in the Study of Religion," and a paper on "The Political Economy of Poverty" to the Association for Social Economics in July.

Michel Despland is the president of the Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQER). His recent publications include: "Les lettrés français découvrent l'Inde, la Chine, l'Islam" (Bulletin de l'Association Guillaume Budé, juin 1996), "Des sciences aux sciences religieuses: Le programme d'André-Marie Ampère (1834-1843) (Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie Religieuse, 1997), and "Les Discours sur quelques sujets religieux: une apologétique écrite pour la lecture intime" (in "Jeter l'ancre dans l'éternité": Etudes sur Alexandre Vinet, ed. D. Maggetti et N. Lamamra, Lausanne: Bibliothèque historique vaudoise, 1997). He is also the contributor of 32 bibliographical notices on French historians of religion to Les sciences religieuses, ed. François Laplanche (Paris: Beauchesne, 1996). In 1997-98, Professor Despland will be the Graduate Program Director for the M.A. History and Philosophy of Religion and the TRES programs.

Rosemary Drage Hale is writing the Christianity section (18 chapters, copiously illustrated) for An Illustrated Guide to World Religions, to be published by Duncan-Baird and distributed by Oxford University Press. She will be presenting a paper at the University of Leeds in July, entitled "Domestic Dominion: Everyday Images of Medieval Masculinities." She continues to serve as the program chair for the History of Christianity section of the American Academy of Religion.

Norma Baumel Joseph's recent and forthcoming publications include: "Zakhor: Memory, Ritual and Gender" (Canadian Women Studies), "You don't know me because you can label me: Self-identity of an Orthodox Feminist" (in A Jewish Sampler: Patterns in the Lives of Jewish Women, ed. R. Siegel and E. Cole), "Celebrating Women: A Jewish Profile" (in The Feminization of Ritual, ed. D. Edwards and Phyllis Senese), and "A Feminist Scenario of the Jewish Future" (in Creating the Jewish Future, Wayne State University Press). Over the winter, she has presented papers at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, the Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, and the conference on International Feminism and Orthodoxy. Professor Joseph has just been named as a finalist in the YWCA's Women of Distinction competition, for an award in the area of the Advancement of Women.

Jack Lightstone is still a member of our Department, although he is not very present with us. Despite his responsibilities as Provost and Vice-Rector, Research, he has managed to produce several book chapters, including "Le Judaïsme" (in Une monde de religion, ed. M. Boisvert, Les presses de l'Université du Québec, 1997), "Ancient Jewish Perceptions of History: An Anthropological Approach" (in Under History's Canopy, ed. K. Parry and J. Penton, University of Toronto, forthcoming), and "Whence the Rabbis? From Coherent Description to Fragmented Reconstructions" (Studies in Religion, forthcoming). He will be presenting a paper on the study of interreligious rivalry in the late antique Levant to the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies in May.

Sheila McDonough has contributed a number of chapters--on Muslims of Canada and on Muslim women--to books recently published or soon to appear, including Muslim Communities of



North America (ed. Y. Haddad, SUNY, 1995), Gender, Genre and Religions (ed. M. Joy and E. Dargyay, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1995), and A Comparative Study of the South Asian Diaspora Religious Experience in Britain, Canada, and the USA (ed. H. Coward, R. Williams, and J. Hinnells). Among her current writing projects is a chapter on "The Muslims of India" for a book on the history of India edited by S. Sridar (SUNY), a chapter on "Muslim Women in India" for a volume on women in India edited by A. Sharma, and a chapter on "Gender Hierarchy in Islam" for a book on religion and ethics edited by D. McCance. Professor McDonough will be presenting a paper on "The Metaphysics of Iqbal" at a conference in Malaysia in June.

David Miller is a contributor of chapters on Svami Sivananda to the Encyclopedia of Hinduism (ed. K.L. Sehagiri Rao, India Heritage Research Foundation, 1996) and to Hindu Spirituality (ed. K.R. Sundararajan, Crossroad Publishing, 1997). Professor Miller will be presenting a paper on "The Hindu Diaspora and the New Religions of North America" at the International Conference on the Hindu Diaspora this August.

Michael Oppenheim's book, Speaking/Writing of God: Jewish Philosophical Reflections on the Life with Others, is appearing this summer, as a publication of SUNY Press. This book includes chapters dealing with Franz Rosenzweig, Emmanuel Levinas, feminist Judaism, and religious pluralism. Professor Oppenheim becomes the Chair of the Department, for a two-year term, starting in June.

Leslie Orr will be on sabbatical 1997-98, and will be making a research trip to India next winter in order to complete her project "Religious Authority and Leadership in Medieval Tamilnadu: Evidence from Epigraphical Sources," and to begin work on a new project on "Religious Identities and Religious Communities: 'Hindu,' 'Jain,' 'Buddhist,' and 'Muslim' in Medieval Tamilnadu." Among her forthcoming publications are: "Women's Wealth and Worship: Female Patronage of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism in Medieval Tamilnadu" (in Images and Voices of Women from South Asia, vol. 2: The Medieval Period, ed. Mandakranta Bose, New York: Oxford University Press) and a review essay on recent work on Hindu goddesses for Religious Studies Review. In addition to participating in the annual meeting of the CSSR in June, she plans to present papers at the South Asian Women's Conference in Los Angeles in September and at an international conference on "Jainism and Early Buddhism in the Indian Cultural Context" in Sweden in the spring of 1998.

Ira Robinson's book (co-edited with M. Butovsky), Renewing Our Days: Montreal Jews in the Twentieth Century, has received the 1997 Toronto Jewish Book Prize. Among Professor Robinson's recent conference presentations are "Hagiographie hassidique et modernité juive" (presented to SQER) and "The Diary of Rabbi Simon Glaser" (presented to the Canadian Jewish Historical Society). Professor Robinson is stepping down after a six-year term as Chair of the Department, but rather than taking a rest, he is taking up, from David Miller, the task of being undergraduate advisor.

T.S. Rukmani has produced a two-volume critically annotated English translation of the Yogasutrabhasyavivarana, which will appear in print by the end of this year. Also forthcoming are articles on "Gandhi and Women" (in Gender and World Religions), on "Patanjali" (in Encyclopedia of Hinduism, India Heritage Research Foundation), and on "The Concept of Self in Hindu Thought" (in Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Routledge). This winter, Professor Rukmani gave a paper, "Critique of Om Based on Early Upanisadic Sources," at the Tenth World Sanskrit Conference and was an invited participant at the International Seminar on Yoga, at Loyola Marymount University.

Paradigms and Praxis: Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion and Culture

The Annual Inter-University Graduate Conference

hosted by Concordia's Department of Religion

May 5, 1997

Concordia University Faculty Club (7th floor of the Hall building)

10:30-12:30

H-767

Chair: James Jervis (Concordia)

Studies in Hinduism and Buddhism.

"Methodological Issues in the Study of the Mahabharata"--Chris Austin (Concordia)

"The Buddha and the Four-Limbed Army: The Military in the Pali Canon"--Matthew Kosuta (UQAM)

"Heavenly Hosts and Hell Wardens: Imagery in Medieval Japanese Buddhism"--Chandra Rice (Concordia)

"Rebuilding a Tradition: Buddhist Women in Sri Lanka"--Howard Gontovnick (Concordia)

"Reflections on Women and Buddhism in the West"--Johanne Rabbat (Concordia)

10:30-12:30

H-762

Chair: Sandra Walker-Ramisch (Concordia)

Challenging Academic Categories: Two Questions, Two Directions.

"Contingency and the Social Sciences? Learning to Speak"--Rose Ftaya (Concordia)

"Feminist Ethics of Engagement"--Faye Wakeling (Concordia)

"Can Dream Texts be Compared to Ritual Texts?"--Marlene Bonneau (Concordia)

"Mending Icarus' Wing: The Poetics of Descent"--Cynthia Hammond (Concordia, Humanities)

1:30-3:30

H-767

Chair: Deidre Butler (Concordia)

Text to Context: Re-Reading Primary Sources for Evidence of Popular Cultures

"Sainte Th  cle: Prise Deux"--Dany Julien (Concordia)

"Alimentary Taboos in Early Medieval Pastoral Literature (c. 500-c. 1000)"--Bernadette Filotas (Universit   de Montr  al)

"Wet Nurses in Post-Plague England: Unacknowledged Medical Practitioners"--Celeste Chamberland (Concordia, History)

"The Circulation of Ideas between Popular and Learned Cultures During the Early Modern Period"--Dominique McCaughey (Concordia, History)

1:30-3:30

H-762

Chair: Rose Ftaya (Concordia)

Persistent Attitudes and Issues Within and Between the 'Peoples of the Book'

"A Parallel Theory of Persecution: Jews and Witches in Medieval Europe"--Pamela Andries (Concordia)

"Rape in Jewish Law: An Inquiry"--Sharon Gubbay (Concordia)

"Taking the Veil off the Hijaab Issue"--Khaleel Mohammed (Concordia)

"Jerusalem?"--Zahia El Masri (Concordia)

3:45-5:45

H-767

Chair: Sharon Gubbay (Concordia)

The Eye of the Beholder: Problematic Paradigms

"The Mystic Status of Joan of Arc"--Bill Koulakis (Concordia)

"Lilith's Flight: Lilith in the Jewish Discourse of Sexuality"--Deidre Butler (Concordia)

"Abraham as a Persistent Religious Model"--James Phillips (Concordia)

"Framing Thecla: The Violence of (Mis)representation"--Sandra Walker-Ramisch (Concordia)

3:45-5:45

H-762

Chair: Carlton Harvey (Concordia)

Flexibility and Adaptability in Contemporary Communities of Belief

"Trends in Modern Orthodoxy as Reflected in the Career of Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung"--Maxine Jacobson (Concordia)

"Tab  tab  i's View Regarding the Freedom of Thought and Belief in Islam"--Abolfazl Sajedi (Concordia)

"Hale-Bop, the Millennium and the End of the World"--Christopher Helland (Concordia)

"Differing Hermeneutics of the Enneagram: Conflict or Consequence?"--James Jervis (Concordia)